

REMARKS

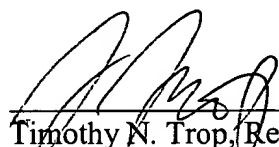
As pointed out previously, the cited reference to Porter teaches away because in Figures 35 and 36, the clamps that clamp the sheet 2 to the heating plate have been removed at the point in time where the two sheets are secured together. The only figures that show sheets 1 and 2 being combined are Figures 35 and 36. Thus, the claimed invention teaches away from the claimed feature of combining two sheets while physically flattening one of the sheets.

Again, the combination of that reference, which teaches away, with another reference, should be unavailing no matter what the other reference teaches.

While the Examiner suggests that Yakou teaches holding the sheets in a vacuum chuck 108, that U-shaped vacuum chuck would be incapable of applying a flattening force to the center of the sheet. Therefore, the claims as amended patentably distinguish over the art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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